UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

OF

JAE-SEUNG BAEK

and

YONG-HOON CHOI

FOR

COLOR CATHODE - RAY TUBE

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE
1900 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 496-7500
Fax: (202) 496-7756

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application Nos. 2003-34930 and 2003-43997 filed on May 30, 2003 and June 30, 2003, which are hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes as if fully set forth herein.

Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a color cathode ray tube, and in particular to a color cathode ray tube capable of satisfying drop requirements and preventing partial doming and howling by adjusting an inner curvature radius and/or a difference of height of a cathode ray tube panel.

Description of the Prior Art

[0003] In general, a color cathode ray tube (hereinafter CRT) displays images, and it is divided into two types of CRT: a curved-surface CRT and a flat CRT.

[0004] Because the curved-surface CRT has problems such as image distortion and light reflection, demand therefore has decreased gradually. On the other hand, because the flat CRT can prevent image distortion and light reflection and implement the maximum visible light region, demand therefore has gradually increased.

[0005] Figure 1 is a side view illustrating a general color CRT. The conventional color CRT includes: a panel 1 having an effective surface on which a phosphor screen 1a is coated; a mask 2 disposed with a predetermined interval to the inner side of the panel 1; a funnel 3 combined with a rear of the panel 1 in order to maintain the inside of the CRT as a vacuum state; and a deflection yoke 5 for deflecting electron beams emitted from the electron gun 4.

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[0006] In the above-mentioned conventional color CRT, when the electron gun 4 receives an image signal, the electron gun 4 emits an electron beam, and the emitted electron beam is accelerated and focused toward the panel 1 by a voltage applied to each electrode of the electron gun 4. The electron beam is deflected by the deflection yoke 5, color selecting is performed while the electron beam passes a slot (not shown) formed in the mask, and each phosphor screen is irradiated by the electron beam landing on the phosphor screen 1a at the internal surface of the panel 1.

[0007] In order to satisfy the demand for lower price, lower weight, and slimmer color CRTs, methods for tinting a panel, using a cheap AK mask, increasing/decreasing a center thickness of a panel and flattening the panel have been used. In case of reducing a center thickness of a panel, when a center thickness of a panel is less than the regulation value (it is regulated so as to be greater than 10.5mm), X-Ray release is increased, and accordingly there is a limitation to the minimum center thickness of the panel. In the panel flattening method, because the internal surface of a panel is gradually flattened, the internal curvature of a mask is gradually decreased, reducing the structural strength of the mask, and accordingly the drop characteristics (drop quality) of the mask decrease.

[0008] As described above, when the structural strength and the drop characteristics of the mask deteriorate, because of heat expansion of the mask, an electron beam passing a mask hole can not accurately hit the red, blue, or green phosphor on the screen, the color purity of the screen deteriorates, and accordingly partial doming and howling occur.

[0009] As described-above, in a conventional color CRT, particularly in a color CRT smaller than 21", in order to satisfy the structural strength and drop requirements of the mask, the wedge ratio of the panel (thickness ratio of a corner portion to the central portion of the screen) is determined so as to be not less than 220%, the inner curvature radius of the mask is uniformly maintained, and a mask thickness is determined so as to be not less than 0.13mm.

Accordingly it is impossible to lower a price, obtain slimness and reduce weight of a CRT and meet the above requirements.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] Accordingly, the present invention is directed to color cathode ray tube that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

[0011] An advantage of the present invention is to provide a color CRT structure capable of reducing the price, thickness, and weight of a CRT and improving the structural strength and drop characteristics of a mask by limiting the inner curvature radius or the difference in height of a panel according to each shorter axis, longer axis, and dialog axis.

[0012] Additional features and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objectives and other advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by the structure particularly pointed out in the written description and claims hereof as well as the appended drawings.

[0013] To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described, A color CRT comprising a panel having a substantially flat outer surface and an inner surface having a certain curvature, and a mask having a plurality of electron beam passing holes, wherein an effective surface diagonal size of the panel is not greater than about 534mm, wherein a central portion transmittance rate is within the range of about 45-75%, wherein the panel satisfies the condition $1.1 \leq (Rxs/Ryc) \leq 4.6$, wherein Rxs is defined as an inner curvature radius along an edge of a longer side of the panel, and wherein Ryc is defined as an inner curvature radius along a line in the center of the panel parallel to the shorter side of the panel.

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[0014] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the invention.

[0016] In the drawings:

[0017] Figure 1 is a side view illustrating a general color CRT;

[0018] Figure 2 is a perspective view illustrating an effective surface size of the present invention;

[0019] Figure 3 is a cross section view illustrating Tc by cutting the panel on the basis of the shorter axis(Y) in Figure 2;

[0020] Figure 4 is a graph showing distortion and drop characteristics as a function of the ratio Rxs/Ryc for the CRT panel in Figure 2;

[0021] Figure 5A shows a cross-sectional view along the shorter axis (Y) in Figure 2 illustrating Zy;

[0022] Figure 5B shows a cross-sectional view along the longer axis (X) illustrating Zx in Figure 2;

[0023] Figure 5C shows a cross-sectional view along the dialog axis (D) in Figure 2 illustrating Zd;

[0024] Figure 6A is a graph showing the drop characteristics and B/U according to a panel wedge ratio in a color CRT using an AK mask;

[0025] Figure 6B is a graph showing drop characteristics and B/U according to a panel wedge ratio in a color CRT using an invar mask;

[0026] Figure 7 is a graph showing drop characteristics versus Zx/Zd, Zy/Zd when the wedge ratio is fixed at 206%;

[0027] Figure 8 is a graph showing drop characteristics versus Zx/Zd and Zy/Zd when the wedge ratio is varied as 186%, 206%, 226%;

[0028] Figure 9 is a graph showing drop characteristics and doming versus Zx/Zd; and

[0029] Figure 10 is a graph showing howling versus Zx/Zd and Zy/Zd.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS

[0030] Reference will now be made in detail to an embodiment of the present invention, example of which is illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

[0031] Figure 2 is a perspective view illustrating the effective surface of a CRT panel 10 according to the present invention. Figure 3 is a cross section view illustrating the thickness of the panel at the center (Tc) by cutting the panel on the basis of the shorter axis(Y) in Figure 2. As shown in Figure 2, Rxs is the radius of curvature of the side of the panel along to X axis, and Rye is the radius of curvature in the center of the panel along the y axis. Figure 4 is a graph showing distortion and drop characteristics as a function of the ratio Rxs/Ryc for the CRT panel in Figure 2.

[0032] As depicted in Figures 2-4, an embodiment of a color CRT in accordance with the present invention includes a panel 10 having an outer curvature radius not less than 30,000mm, namely, a substantially flat outer surface and an inner surface having a certain curvature, and a mask (not shown) having a plurality of electron beam passing holes. A

tinted panel having a central portion transmittance rate of 45-75% or a clear panel having a central portion transmittance rate not less than 75% may be used in the present invention.

[0033] The present invention may be applied to not only to a large-sized color CRT, including a panel having an effective surface diagonal size (diameter) not less than 534mm, but also a small-sized color CRT including a panel having an effective surface diagonal size not greater than 534mm.

[0034] Hereinafter, a CDT that is a color CRT having a diameter not greater than 534mm will be described.

[0035] In the present invention, a shorter axis "Y", a longer axis "X", a diagonal axis "D", and an inner curvature radius position hypothetically formed on the inner surface of the panel 10 are defined as following.

[0036] As depicted in Figures 2 and 3, in defining the axes, a hypothetical line drawn in the vertical direction of the panel through the central point "O" of the panel is defined as the shorter axis "Y", a hypothetical line drawn in the horizontal direction of the panel 10 is defined as the longer axis "X", and a hypothetical line drawn in the diagonal direction of the panel 10 is defined as the diagonal axis "D".

[0037] An inner curvature radius of the panel 10 following the shorter axis "Y" through an inner central point "O" is defined as "Ryc", an inner curvature radius of the panel 10 following the longer axis "X" is defined as "Rxc", an inner curvature radius of the panel 10 following the diagonal axis "D" is defined as "Rdc", an inner curvature radius of a shorter side "S" of the effective surface is defined as "Rys", and an inner curvature radius of a longer side "L" of the effective surface is defined as "Rxs".

[0038] The thickness of the central portion of the panel is defined as "Tc", the thickness of the end of the effective surface following the shorter axis "Y" is defined as "Ty", the thickness of the end of the effective surface following the longer axis "X" is defined as

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"Tx", and the thickness of the end of the effective surface following the diagonal axis "D" is defined as "Td".

[0039] In order to help in understanding the present invention, the concepts of curvature and curvature radius will be described briefly.

[0040] Curvature means a curved degree, and curvature radius means a radius. Accordingly, the greater the curvature, the less the curvature radius is, and the curved degree is greater. On the contrary, the less the curvature, the greater the curvature radius is, and the curved degree is smaller.

[0041] In the embodiment of the color CRT in accordance with the present invention, the panel satisfies the following condition $1.1 \leq (Rxs/Ryc) \leq 4.6$. This relationship means that an inner curvature of the longer side "L" of the effective surface "E" is less than an inner curvature radius of the panel 10 following the shorter axis "Y" through the central point "O".

[0042] Figure 4 is a graph showing the distortion or drop characteristics of the panel when (Rxs/Ryc) ranges from 1.1 to 4.6. In Figure 4, the horizontal axis shows a range of (Rxs/Ryc), the vertical axis shows a range of distortion, a curved line 1 is the drop characteristics curved line, and a curved line 2 is the distortion line. As depicted in Figure 4, when (Rxs/Ryc) ranges from 1.1 to 4.6, in particular in the range of 1.1 - 2.7, the drop characteristics satisfy the regulation value (not less than 30G), and distortion is decreased.

[0043] In addition, the panel may satisfy the following condition $0.9 \leq (Ty/Tx) \leq 1.3$, $(Td/Tc) \geq 1.5$, wherein Ty is the thickness of the panel at the edge where the "Y" axis crosses, Tx is the thickness of the panel at the edge where the "X" axis crosses, and Td is the thickness of the panel at the corner. Also, the thickness of the mask, (Tm, not shown) to improve the structural strength of the mask is defined to be not less than 0.13mm in the conventional color CRT. However, in the embodiment of the color CRT in accordance with the present invention, when (Rxs/Ryc) ranges from 1.1 to 4.6, and the thickness of the mask is not greater than 0.13mm, it is still possible to maintain the structural strength of the mask

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above the regulation value. Herein, it is preferable to limit the thickness of the mask (Tm) within the range of 0.10mm ≤ Tm ≤ 0.12mm.

[0044] In addition, when the effective surface diagonal size is defined as 1R = an effective surface diagonal size of panel*1.767, it satisfies 1.3R ≤ Ryc ≤ 3.3R or 1.8R ≤ Rxs ≤5.8R.

[0045] In addition, on the basis of the effective surface boundary, in relation between Rys. Also the panel may satisfy the following condition (Rxs/Rys) ≥ 1.1 wherein Rys is an inner curvature radius of the shorter side "S" of the effective surface and Rxs is an inner curvature radius of the longer side "L" of the effective surface. Herein, (Rxs/Rys) ≥ 1.1 means that Rxs is greater than Rys. In other words, an inner curvature radius of the longer side "L" of the effective surface "E" is less than an inner curvature radius of the shorter side "S" of the effective surface "E".

[0046] In addition, the panel may satisfy the following conditions (Rys/Ryc) ≤ 0.8 and 0.9 ≤ (Rxs/Ryc) ≤ 1.1.

[0047] Also, when Rxc ≥ Rdc ≥ Ryc and the curvature radius is increased in the shorter axis "Y" direction, a curvature radius is decreased in the longer axis "X" direction, and accordingly an inner curvature radius of the panel 10 is formed as a cylindrical shape.

[0048] Table 1 shows simulation values of distortion and drop characteristics in relation to Rxc, Ryc, Rdc.

TABLE 1

Item	Representative Curvature Radius			Effective Surface Boundary		Thickness			Difference of height			Rxs /Ryc	Distor-tion	Drop (G)
	Rx	Ry	Rd	Rxs	Rys	tx	ty	td	Zx	Zy	Zd			
Embodiment of the present invention	2300	1295	1800	2300	1295	15.99	16.16	21.65	5.75	5.75	11.51	1.776	1.420	31
1	2600	2600	1805	1538	1167	15.99	13.27	21.62	5.09	2.86	11.48	0.592	0.041	15
2	2600	2300	1805	1607	1167	15.99	13.64	21.62	5.09	3.23	11.48	0.699	0.222	17
3	2600	2000	1805	1708	1167	15.99	14.13	21.62	5.09	3.72	11.48	0.854	0.458	20
4	2600	1700	1805	1865	1167	15.99	14.78	21.62	5.09	4.38	11.48	1.097	0.776	25
5	2600	1400	1805	2149	1167	15.99	15.73	21.62	5.09	5.32	11.48	1.535	1.232	28
6	2600	1100	1805	2815	1167	15.99	17.18	21.62	5.09	6.78	11.48	2.559	1.939	33
7	2600	1000	1805	3293	1167	15.99	17.87	21.62	5.09	7.46	11.48	3.293	2.269	35
8	2600	900	1805	4158	1167	15.99	18.70	21.62	5.09	8.30	11.48	4.620	2.675	37
9	2600	800	1805	6204	1167	15.99	19.75	21.62	5.09	9.34	11.48	7.755	3.182	32
10	2600	700	1805	7703	1167	15.99	21.11	21.62	5.09	10.70	11.48	24.333	3.839	27

[0049] When Rxc and Rdc are respectively fixed as 2600mm and 1805mm, and Ryc has 10 different values, Table 1 shows the effective surface size, thickness, curvature value, Rxs/Ryc, distortion and drop characteristics values. As shown in Table 1, the items satisfying the drop characteristics as not less than 30G and having the appropriate distortion are within the range of items 5 - 7, and the best performing value of (Rxs/Ryc) is measured as 1.776.

[0050] Figure 5A shows a cross-sectional view along the shorter axis (Y) in Figure 2 illustrating Zy; Figure 5B shows a cross-sectional view along the longer axis (X) illustrating

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Zx in Figure 2; and Figure 5C shows a cross-sectional view along the dialog axis (D) in Figure 2 illustrating Zd.

[0051] As depicted in Figures 5A-5C, an embodiment of the color CRT in accordance with the present invention includes a panel 10 having a substantially flat outer surface and an inner surface having a certain curvature; and a mask (not shown) having a plurality of electron beam passing holes. In more detail, a CDT that is a color CRT having an effective surface diagonal size of the panel 10 not greater than 534mm will be described.

[0052] "Zy" is a difference in height between the inner surface at the central point and the effective surface end portion at the edge of the panel along the shorter axis "Y". "Zx" is a difference in height between the inner surface at the central point and the effective surface end portion at the edge of the panel along the longer axis "X", and "Zd" is a difference in height between the inner surface at the central point and the effective surface end portion at the edge of the panel along the diagonal axis "D" on the basis of the central point "O".

[0053] In an embodiment of the color CRT in accordance with the present invention, Zy may satisfy $(0.4*Zd) \leq Zy \leq (0.6*Zd)$, or Zx may satisfy $(0.4*Zd) \leq Zx \leq (0.6*Zd)$. It is more preferable for Zx to satisfy $0.44*Zd \leq Zx \leq 0.56*Zd$, it is more preferable for Zy to satisfy $0.44*Zd \leq Zy \leq 0.56*Zd$, and it is more preferable for Zx and Zy to be 50% Zd.

[0054] $Z(y/2)$, $Z(x/2)$, and $Z(d/2)$ are the difference in height between the inner surface at the central point and a point half way between the central point and an edge of the panel along the "Y", "X", and "S" axes, respectively. Also, $Z(y/2)$ may satisfy $0.21*Zy \leq Z(y/2) \leq 0.25*Zy$, $Z(x/2)$ may satisfy $0.23*Zx \leq Z(x/2) \leq 0.27*Zx$, and $Z(d/2)$ may satisfy $0.22*Zd \leq Z(d/2) \leq 0.26*Zd$.

[0055] In addition, it is preferable for the mask to have a thickness not greater than 0.15mm, and it is preferable for the panel 10 to have a wedge ratio ranging from 180 to 230%. A difference of height of the mask (not shown) is determined similar to the difference of height of the panel 10. "Z'y" is a difference in height in the mask between the central point

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and the effective surface end portion at the end of the mask along the shorter axis "Y". "Z'x" is a difference in height in the mask between the central point and the effective surface end portion at the end of the mask along the longer axis "X", and "Z'd" is a difference in height in the mask between the central point and the effective surface end portion at the end of the mask along the diagonal axis "D". It is preferable for Z'x to satisfy $0.35*Z'd \leq Z'x \leq 0.65*Z'd$, and it is preferable for Z'y to satisfy $0.35*Z'd \leq Z'y \leq 0.65*Z'd$.

[0056] As described above, in order to secure the structural strength of the mask in the related art, the thickness of the mask is defined as not less than 0.15mm, and wedge ratio is defined as not less than 230% in the conventional color CRT. However, in an embodiment of the color CRT in accordance with the present invention, although thickness of the mask is not greater than 0.12mm and wedge ratio is not greater than 210%, it is possible to provide structural strength of the mask above the regulation value (not less than 30G), obtain a CI effect according to thickness decrease of the panel 10, and prevent partial doming and howling efficiently by improving drop characteristics.

[0057] Hereinafter, the conventional color CRT having a Zx/Zd ratio of 30% and Zy/Zd ratio of 60% will be compared with an embodiment of the present invention having a Zx/Xd ratio as 50% and Zy/Zd ratio as 50%. As described above, in the color CRT using an AK mask, Table 2 shows the drop characteristics and B/U according to wedge ratio of the panel 10, and Figure 6A is a graph according to Table 2.

TABLE 2

Wedge Ratio	170	180	190	200	210	220
Drop Characteristics	25	30	35	40	45	50
B/U	80	78	76	74	72	70

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[0058] As depicted in Table 2 and Figure 6A, when the panel wedge ratio is greater than or equal to 190%, a general monitor brown tube (CDT) can meet drop characteristics above 30G. However, when the panel wedge ratio is not less than 210%, it is difficult to use a tint panel because B/U, the brightness ratio of the center to the corner in a screen of a monitor, is not greater than 70% in the panel. Accordingly, in order to use an AK mask and a tint panel, when panel wedge ranges from 180 - 210% and B/U ranges from 72 - 78%, it is possible to satisfy the requirements of a monitor brown tube.

[0059] Table 3 shows the drop characteristics and B/U according to panel wedge ratio for a CRT using an invar mask, and Figure 6B shows a graph according to Table 3.

TABLE 3

Wedge Ratio	190	200	210	220	230	240
Drop Characteristics	28	30	32	34	36	38
B/U	93	92	91	90	89	88

[0060] As depicted in Table 3 and Figure 6B, in order to satisfy the drop characteristics for the invar mask, the wedge ratio has to be not less than 200%, and B/U has to be satisfied regardless of wedge ratio.

[0061] Figure 7 is a graph showing drop characteristics versus Zx/Zd, Zy/Zd when the wedge ratio is fixed at 206%. The horizontal axis represents Zx/Zd ratio and Zy/Zd ratio, and the vertical axis represents drop characteristics. As depicted in Figure 7, in the conventional color CRT when Zy/Zd is 35%, the drop characteristic value is 18G, and when Zx/Zd is 65%, the drop characteristic value is 20G. In an embodiment of the present invention, when Zx/Zd and Zy/Zd are respectively 50%, a drop characteristic value above 30G results.

[0062] The test results show that the drop characteristics have been greatly improved for a CRT in accordance with the present invention.

[0063] Figure 8 is a graph showing drop characteristics versus Zx/Zd and Zy/Zd when the wedge ratio is varied as 186%, 206%, 226%. The horizontal axis represents wedge ratio, and the vertical axis represents drop characteristics. A curved line (1) shows a conventional color CRT having Zy/Zd and Zx/Zd as 35%, and a curved line (2) shows another embodiment of the color CRT having Zy/Zd and Zx/Zd as 50%. As depicted in Figure 8, when the panel wedge ratio is 186%, the curved line 2 shows drop characteristics superior to that of the curved line 1 by a factor of 2.2. When the panel wedge ratio is 226%, the curved line 2 shows drop characteristics superior to that of the curved line 1 by a factor of 1.2.

[0064] In the present invention with Zy/Zd and Zx/Zd as 35%, a lower panel wedge ratio improves performance over a conventional CRT.

[0065] Figure 9 is a graph showing drop characteristics and doming versus Zx/Zd. The horizontal axis represents Zx/Zd and Zy/Zd, the left side vertical axis represents drop characteristics, the right side vertical axis represents mask doming, a curved line 1 shows drop characteristics, and a curved line 2 shows doming. As depicted in Figure 9, when Zy/Zd and Zx/Zd is 50%, the drop characteristics are improved, and the partial doming is decreased.

[0066] Figure 10 is a graph of howling versus Zx/Zd and Zy/Zd. The horizontal axis represents frequency and the vertical axis represents a mask howling level. Herein, the frequency is within the range of 100 to 600kHz. With reference to Figure 10 howling has been reduced in the color CRT in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention having Zx/Zd and Zy/Zd as 50% as compared to a conventional color CRT having Zx/Zd and Zy/Zd as 30%.

[0067] As described above, with respect to the present invention, when the inner curvature radius of the panel ranges from 1.1 - 4.6 and Zx/Zd and Zy/Zd is 50%, and although the thickness of the mask is not greater than 0.12mm and panel wedge ratio is not

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greater than 210%, it is possible to have the structural strength of the mask above the regulation value, to obtain a CI effect according to thickness decrease of the panel, and to prevent partial doming and howling by improving drop characteristics.

[0068] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variation can be made in the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.